

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, claims 5, 7, 10 and 60 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. Claim 58 has been amended to correct an informality. Claims 86-88 are added. Support for the added claims can be found at page 10, lines 12-21 and elsewhere in the specification.

Updating Status of Related Applications

In response to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the status of related applications has been updated. Applicants note that the paragraph on page 9, lines 22-31 was updated in the preliminary amendment.

Election Requirement

In this amendment, the nonelected claims are canceled.

Action on the Merits

In response to the three obviousness-type double-patenting rejections, attached with this amendment are three terminal disclaimers. Specifically, U.S. Patents Nos. 6,540,975, 6,984,363, and 6,750,258 are terminally disclaimed.

Claim 8 is now amended to state that the buffer layer is vapor deposited. As stated in the specification (page 11, line 22), it was surprisingly discovered that vapor deposition produced

superior buffer layers. The inventive methods and the microchannel apparatus produced by the inventive methods was a significant advance in microchannel technology.

If the Examiner has any questions or would like to speak to Applicants' representative, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 17 July 2007

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